

**FILED**

JUL 30 2007

RICHARD W. WIEKING  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT,  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL THOMAS GORMAN,

Petitioner,

vs.

MATTHEW C. KRAMER,

Respondent.

C 07-2883 MJJ (PR)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION  
FOR STAY; INSTRUCTIONS TO  
CLERK**

(Docket Nos. 2 &amp; 7)

Petitioner, a California prisoner incarcerated at Pelican Bay State Prison, filed this pro se habeas corpus petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging his state court conviction. He has filed a motion to stay this case while he exhausts a new claim in state court, and he has also applied for leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

Petitioner raises four claims in the instant petition: (1) his conviction violates his right to due process because a jury instruction allowed the jury to convict him on less than proof of every element of his offense beyond a reasonable doubt; (2) the admission or evidence of racial slurs violated his right to due process; (3) he received ineffective assistance of counsel; and (4) his sentence violates his Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial because it was aggravated on the basis of facts not found beyond a reasonable doubt. This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); Rose v. Hodges, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975). Petitioner's claims, which he claims to have already exhausted, are, when liberally construed, cognizable.

1 Petitioner wishes to stay this proceeding while he exhausts an additional claim in state  
2 court, namely that the enhancement of sentence violates his Sixth Amendment right under the  
3 recent Supreme Court decision in Cunningham v. California, 127 S. Ct. 856, 871 (2007).  
4 The United States Supreme Court has held that district court may stay mixed habeas petitions  
5 to allow the petitioner to exhaust in state court. Rhines v. Webber, 544 U.S. 269, 277-78  
6 (2005); see also Pace v. DiGuglielmo, 544 U.S. 408, 416 (2005) (noting prisoners may file  
7 “protective” petition in federal court and ask federal court to stay federal habeas proceedings  
8 until state remedies exhausted). A stay is only appropriate where the district court has first  
9 determined that there was good cause for the petitioner’s failure to exhaust the claims in state  
10 court and that the claims are potentially meritorious. Rhines, 544 U.S. at 277. Moreover,  
11 where granting a stay, the district court must effectuate the timeliness concerns in AEDPA by  
12 placing “reasonable limits on a petitioner’s trip to state court and back.” Id. at 278. The  
13 claim petitioner wishes to exhaust is, when liberally construed, cognizable. Moreover,  
14 petitioner has shown cause for failing to raise these claims sooner insofar as the decision in  
15 Cunningham was not issued until after he had completed his direct appeals. Under these  
16 circumstances, the motion for a stay is GRANTED.

17 Petitioner is cautioned that if he wishes to have this Court consider the unexhausted  
18 claim, he must properly present it the California Supreme Court within thirty days of the date  
19 of any decision by the California Court of Appeal rejecting his claim. Further, if petitioner  
20 wishes to have this Court consider his petition, including the exhausted claims set forth  
21 therein, he must file a motion to reopen this action within thirty days of the California  
22 Supreme Court’s decision rejecting his claim, which motion shall be accompanied by  
23 AMENDED PETITION containing his newly exhausted claim. The amended petition must  
24 include the caption and civil case number used in this order, No. C 07-2883 MJJ (PR), and  
25 must include the words AMENDED PETITION on the first page. In the amended petition,  
26 petitioner must include all the claims he wishes to present, including both the newly  
27 exhausted claims and the cognizable third claim from the present petition. In the event the  
28 new claim petitioner is exhausting is granted in the California courts, petitioner shall so

1 notify the court in a motion to reopen this action, filed in this court within 30 days of the date  
2 this order is filed.

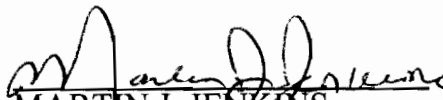
3 In light of petitioner's lack of funds, the application to proceed in forma pauperis is  
4 GRANTED.

5 The Clerk shall ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSE the file pending the stay of this  
6 action.

7 This order terminates Docket Nos. 2 & 7.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 DATED: 7/28/2007

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11 MARTIN J. JENKINS  
12 United States District Judge  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL THOMAS GORMAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

MATTHEW C. KRAMER et al,

Defendant.

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Case Number: CV07-02883 MJJ

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on July 30, 2007, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Michael Thomas Gorman  
California State Prison, Folsom  
Prisoner Id T80924  
P.O. Box 715071  
Represa, CA 95671



Dated: July 30, 2007

Richard W. Wicking, Clerk  
By: Edward Butler, Deputy Clerk